

APPENDIX

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Twice amended) A [part for a] fuel system of a motor vehicle that is adapted to house and transport a fuel comprising hydrocarbons, wherein said fuel system comprises:

at least one [said] part [being] comprising plastic or rubber, that is adapted to come into contact with hydrocarbons emanating from said fuel, and that is permeable to hydrocarbons emanating from said fuel], said part comprising

a body made of a non-metallic material]; and

a polytetrafluoroethylene coating on at least a portion of a surface of said part, wherein said coating has a thickness of a few tens of microns to 30 microns, [deposited on a surface of said body to make said part substantially impermeable to hydrocarbons] and wherein said coating is disposed between at least a hydrocarbon transmitting portion of said part and said hydrocarbon emitting fuel;

wherein the coating [has a thickness of from about 10 to about 30 μm] composition and thickness are sufficient to at least substantially reduce the transmission of said emitted hydrocarbons through said part to not more than 2 g/24 hours.

4. (Three times amended) The part according to Claim 1, wherein said [body] part comprises [is made of] plastic.

5. (Three times amended) The part according to Claim 1, wherein said [body] part comprises [is made of] rubber.

6. (Twice amended) A method of [making] at least reducing the transmission of hydrocarbons through a plastic or rubber part [for] of a fuel system of a motor vehicle, that is adapted to house a fuel comprising hydrocarbons, [said part being adapted to come into contact with hydrocarbons, said method comprising the steps of] which comprises:

[preparing a non-metallic body of said part; and]

depositing, on a surface of said part that is adapted to come into contact with said hydrocarbons, a polytetrafluoroethylene coating [on at least a surface of said body] having a thickness of a few microns to 30 microns sufficient to at least reduce hydrocarbon transmission of up to 2 g/24 hours.

8. (Three times amended) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene coating is formed by depositing a [deposited substance which] composition that comprises particles of polytetrafluoroethylene, at least one solvent [or more solvents] and a bonding agent.

9. (Twice amended) The method according to Claim 8, wherein [the deposited substance] said composition also comprises a pigment in an amount that is sufficient to [colour] color the polytetrafluoroethylene coating.

10. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said part is a tubular part, said depositing comprising [the step of spraying, by means of a spray nozzle,] a liquid composition comprising polytetrafluoroethylene onto an internal wall of the tubular part while the spray nozzle and the tubular part are being [given a relative] moved translationally and rotationally [movement] relative to each other.

11. (Amended) The [part] fuel system of claim 1, wherein said [body is made of] part comprises an elastomer.

12. (Amended) The [part] fuel system of claim 1, wherein said [body is] part comprises a pipe and the polytetrafluoroethylene coating is [formed] disposed on an outer surface of said pipe.

13. (Amended) The [part] fuel system of claim 1, wherein said [body] part is an O-ring having an outer perimeter and an inner perimeter.

14. (Amended) The [part] fuel system of claim 13, wherein the O-ring has a

circumferential groove extending along the outer perimeter.

15. (Amended) The [part] fuel system of claim 13, wherein the coating is [formed] disposed on an entire exposed surface of said O-ring except in a region of said circumferential groove.

16. (Amended) The [part] fuel system of claim 1, wherein said [body is made of] part comprises nitrile PVC.

17. (Amended) The [part] fuel system of claim 1, wherein said part is [a valve having said body configured as] a valve membrane [made of] comprising an elastomer sheet, and the coating is [formed] disposed on said valve membrane.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising [wherein said preparing comprises] molding said part [body from rubber or plastic].

19. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said coating is deposited in a thickness of [from about] 10 to [about] 35 μm .

20. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said [body] part is made from an elastomer.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said [body] is [formed] a hollow pipe and said [depositing comprising forming said] coating is disposed on an outer surface of said pipe.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said part is [body is formed as] an O-ring having outer and inner perimeters and a circumferential groove extending along the outer perimeter, and wherein liquid polytetrafluoroethylene is sprayed [said depositing comprising holding said ring at said circumferential groove; and spraying, by means of a spray nozzle, a liquid polytetrafluoroethylene] onto an exposed

surface of said O-ring.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22, [wherein said depositing further comprises] further comprising rotating said ring [and] while axially moving said spray nozzle back and forth [through a center of said ring] during said spraying.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising: [wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene coating is formed by]

depositing a composition comprising: [deposited substance which comprises] particles of polytetrafluoroethylene, [and] at least one solvent and a binder on a surface of said part, [said method further comprising, after said depositing, the steps of]

removing said solvent from said composition while on the surface of said [body] part; and

baking the coating under conditions sufficient to cause [so that the] particles of polytetrafluoroethylene to agglomerate together.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said removing comprises evaporating said solvent at [about] 60°C, and [said] baking [is performed] at [about] 150°C.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said [body is prepared from a] plastic material [having] has a softening point that is higher than [about] 180°C.

27. (Amended) A [fuel system for a] motor vehicle, comprising a plurality of parts together defining [an interior of said] a fuel system that is adapted to contain a fuel, for said motor vehicle, comprising [for at least one of containing and transferring] hydrocarbons, wherein at least one of said parts [having] is permeable to hydrocarbons associated with said fuel and has at least one [a] surface exposed to [said interior of] hydrocarbons in said fuel system;

wherein at least one of said [part comprising a body and] parts has a polytetrafluoroethylene coating 10 to 30 microns thick deposited on said surface of said body in an amount sufficient to make said part substantially impermeable to hydrocarbons[;

wherein the coating has a thickness of from about 10 to about 30 μm].

28. (Amended) The motor vehicle [fuel system] of claim 27, wherein said part [body is made of a non-metallic material] comprises at least one of plastic and rubber.

29. (Amended) The [fuel system] motor vehicle of claim 28, wherein said [non-metallic material is] part comprises an elastomer.

31. (Amended) The [fuel system] motor vehicle of claim 27, wherein said [body] part is a pipe and the coating is formed on an outer surface of said pipe.

32. (Amended) The [fuel system] motor vehicle of claim 27, wherein said [body] part is an O-ring having outer and inner perimeters, and a circumferential groove extending along the outer perimeter, and wherein the coating is [formed] disposed on an entire exposed surface of said O-ring except in a region of said circumferential groove.

33. (Amended) The [fuel system] motor vehicle of claim 27, wherein said part is a valve [having said body configured a] comprising an elastomer valve membrane, and said coating is disposed on said valve membrane.